

# Trails



## *Annual Trail Report - Fiscal Year 2004-05*

### Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services (PRNS)

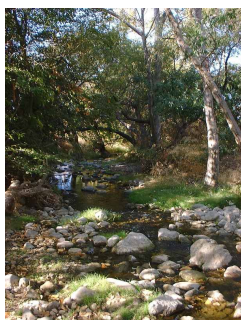
**Edition: July 1, 2005**



#### **Identified**

24.8% of projects have been identified in the City's Greenprint or trail database for future development.

**35.29 miles**



#### **Study**

7.5% of projects have been or are currently being studied to determine a feasibility alignment.

**10.68 miles**



#### **Plan**

22.6% of projects have been or are currently being master planned for future development.

**32.08 miles**



#### **Design**

7.7% of projects have been or are currently being designed, resulting in construction documents.

**11.03 miles**



#### **Construct**

3.7% of projects are under construction.

**5.28 miles**



#### **Built/Open**

33.6% of projects are constructed and open to the public.

**47.66 miles**

## Contents

### **Trail Program Overview..... 1**

### **Program Updates..... 1**

### **Project Updates..... 3**

### **Partners..... 6**

## Trail Program Overview

Several years ago, the City of San Jose developed the Greenprint in partnership with residents and community groups. The document serves as a 20-year strategic plan for development of parks, community facilities and trails. A 100-mile trail system was identified as a goal.

The Annual Report serves to update the community on trail projects in all stages of development within the 27 trail systems that will someday make up the City's trail network.

## Program Updates

### **User Survey**

A user survey was created this past year to obtain data about trail preferences, perception of safety and security, and elements that would increase the popularity of the trail system. The survey is posted on the program's web site and is distributed at community meetings.

Recent survey results indicate that the Los Gatos Creek Trail is the most often used. Trail users rank safety, access and surrounding environment as the most important aspects of the trail system. Maintenance, cleanliness and access to trail maps were also ranked as important elements.

## Trail Benefits Report

There are many perceptions about trails, and not all of them are positive. Seeking to document the facts, staff worked with the Rails to Trails Conservancy to research and report on the impact of trails upon property values, the transportation system, recreational opportunities, safety and commerce. The report is posted on the program's web site and is used by staff to respond to community questions and concerns. In general, staff is able to report that national and regional studies show that trails increase the value of nearby homes, do not increase the likelihood of crime and serve as an important encouragement for people to exercise.

## Collaborative Action Plan (CAP)

By partnering with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), staff is able to develop trail projects more rapidly. Staff has prepared a number of joint-trail agreements this year that have allowed public access along Water District maintenance roads. Current agreements under development include:

- Lower Guadalupe River Trail
- Saratoga/San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail
- Coyote Creek - Riveroaks Trail
- Guadalupe Creek Trail

Additionally, staff has jointly managed a systemwide database, reported quarterly on progress to both the District's Board and City Council and posted a trail system inventory on the web.

## EPA Brownfields

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manages a Brownfields grant program. Brownfields are sites that may have some contamination due to prior uses - grant funds are available for environmental testing to determine the extent of contamination and levels of mitigation required. Staff secured a \$200,000 grant to evaluate parcels that have been identified for park and trail development as part of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI). By investing grant funds during the feasibility stage of a project's development, staff will have the data necessary to better define a budget, schedule and scope of work for the future projects. A Request for Proposals was issued in May to secure consultant services to conduct the site investigations.

## Grant Writing

Staff prepared nine grants over the past year, seeking over \$10 million in funds for planning, design and construction of trails.

Staff utilizes a prioritization process that ranks projects against 7 measures to create a 'short list' of target projects for upcoming grant opportunities.

The following grant requests were prepared during 2004/05 with the amount and status:

1. Almaden Expressway Pedestrian Crossing - (\$3,000,000) request declined by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.
2. Bay Trail, Reach 9B Pedestrian Bridge - (\$250,000) request declined by the SCVWD.
3. Bay Trail, Reach 9B Pedestrian Bridge - (\$95,000) pending notification from ABAG.
4. Coyote Creek, Reach 5 - (\$300,000) request declined by the SCVWD.
5. Coyote Creek, Reach 2 - (\$70,000) - awarded by Bay Ridge Trail Council, in partnership with the Coastal Conservancy.
6. Guadalupe River Reach E, Airport Parkway Under-Crossing - (\$850,000) pending notification from the State of California.
7. Guadalupe River Trail, Reach A to E - (\$3,000,000) request declined by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.
8. Guadalupe River Trail, Reach A to E - (\$3,237,705) pending notification from the Valley Transportation Authority.
9. Willow Glen Spur - (\$250,000) request declined by the SCVWD.

Funding from grants, bond and other City funds support the implementation of all current trail projects. The program's budget was over \$15,000,000 during the 2004-05 fiscal year.

## Trail Summit

In April 2005, staff partnered with the County of Santa Clara and the Department of Environmental Services to conduct a summit with the Resource Agencies that issue permits for trail and other improvement projects. A panel discussion and a presentation made by staff helped participants to better understand the environmental issues pertaining to capital improvement projects. Lessons learned from the summit will help shape future projects and likely expedite permitting and project delivery.

## System Database

A database was created in 2004/05 and is updated continuously. Detailed information about each of the 180 individual trail projects (identified, developing and existing) that make up the entire system is retained in the database. The database support strategic planning and yields reports that help the community locate trails. The "Trail System Inventory" document is posted on the Trail Program web site and provides information on trails' status, location and continuity.

## Interim Trails

To increase public access, a number of trails are, or will be opened in an interim state. An interim trail typically includes minimal safety enhancements; call box, regulatory signs and fencing as necessary.

Approximately 16 miles of trails will be open in this manner.



Development of interim trails can only occur after an environmental assessment and document has been prepared, and access to property has been secured often through a joint-trail agreement.

Miles	Status
2.6	Identified for development
9.9	Joint-trail agreement
2.3	Improvements to be installed
1.5	Open to the Public

## Project Updates

### Bay Trail Reach 9B - Alviso Slough, near Gold Street (400 ft)



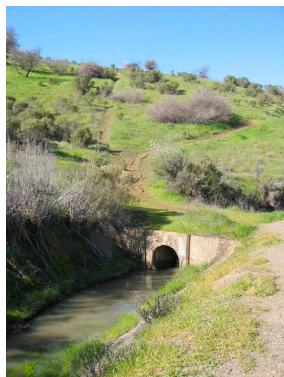
Access in the area is limited by the presence of an active railway and the narrow Gold Street bridge. A feasibility study was initiated in May 2005 for a pedestrian bridge connection over the Alviso Slough (near the terminus of the Guadalupe River in Alviso) as an alternative to the Gold Street Bridge. The bridge would permit development of a future trail connection to the

Sunnyvale Baylands and Bay Trail and improve access to the County of Santa Clara Marina and levee trails.

Once the initial evaluation is completed and the site challenges have been defined, a schedule for the project will be created.

### Coyote Alamitos Canal (COA01 - 04)

#### Coyote Creek to Los Alamitos Creek (11 miles)



A feasibility study was completed in October 2004 identifying numerous technical challenges with development of a trail along the Santa Teresa foothills. Staff is working with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to pursue further engineering analysis and consider development of an interim trail within the Water District's available right of way.

### Coyote Creek (COY03 - 05)

#### Highway 237 to Montague Exp. (2.1 miles)



Construction of under-crossings at Tasman Drive and Montague Expressway, and a connection to the Highway 237 Bikeway is underway. Permits secured from the State Department of Fish & Game prevented work within the riparian corridor from October to June 1.

Construction is scheduled for completion by July 15, 2005.

### Coyote Creek (COY05 - 10)

#### Montague Exp. to Story Road (6.0 miles)

The master plan project began in May with a site walk of both sides of the creek to determine a preferred alignment. The plan will build upon the feasibility study completed last year for the segment from Highway 101 to Story Road. The trail alignment will require at least one pedestrian bridge and six under-crossings.

Once the initial evaluation is completed and the site challenges have been defined, a schedule for the project will be created.

### Coyote Creek (COY11) Story Road to Phelan Avenue (2.1 miles)



Design work on the surrounding Kelley Park redevelopment project is underway. Trail design work will occur as part of that larger project through a grant secured by staff (\$70,000) from the

Bay Ridge Trail Council and the Coastal Conservancy.

### Coyote Creek (COY12 - 13) Phelan Avenue to Los Lagos Golf Course (1.8 miles)

The master plan was completed in April 2005. Staff is proceeding with preparation of the construction documents. The Park Bond approved by voters several years ago provides funding for construction of the project.

### Guadalupe Creek (GUC01) Almaden Exp. to Singletree Avenue (2.5 miles)

Staff has obtained approval from the SCVWD for the installation of signage and fencing for an interim trail as required by the master plan completed in June 2004. A joint-trail agreement is being negotiated with the SCVWD.

Signage for the project has been manufactured and staff is seeking a schedule and cost estimate from contractors for installation of signs and fencing.

**Guadalupe River (GUA01 - 06)  
Gold Street/Alviso to Hwy 880 (6.0 miles)**

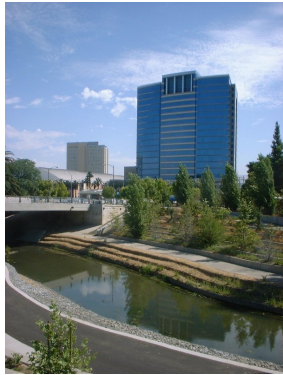


A master plan was completed in June. The plan defines an interim trail as well as a final trail alignment. Staff is negotiating a joint trail agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and preparing work orders necessary to permit public access along several segments of the trail.

Staff is seeking funds to construct an under-crossing at Airport Parkway and surface roadway improvements to permit continuous access along the Airport frontage.

Installation of interim improvements are scheduled for completion by September.

**Guadalupe River Park (GUA06 - 15) Hwy 880 to Hwy 280 (2.7 miles)**



Development of the project has been managed by the Redevelopment Agency. The trail through downtown links several parks and festival sites, as well as the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens between Coleman Avenue and Highway 880. A joint trail agreement for public access is being negotiated at this time.

The project is scheduled for completion by September 10, 2005.

**Guadalupe River (GUA16) Hwy 280/Woz Way to Virginia Street (2.6 miles)**



The master plan was completed in October 2004 and preparation of construction documents will commence in the Summer of 2005. The trail will be aligned between the river and Highway 87, offering views of the downtown skyline as users approach from the south. It is anticipated that design work will take 18 months.

**Guadalupe River (GUA17)  
Virginia Street to Willow Street/Hwy 87 Bikeway (0.5 miles)**

The master plan was completed in October 2004. It defines an on-street alignment until flood control work along the river can be completed. No precise schedule is available for that work at this time due to budget reallocations impacting the Army Corps of Engineers.

The on-street alignment has been defined by recently installed signage that guides users to the Highway 87 Bikeway.

**Guadalupe River (GUA27A)  
Blossom River Drive Trail Head (50 ft)**

Survey work is underway to define the easement required for a trail access point at the Blossom River Drive cul-de-sac to the recently-constructed Guadalupe River Trail. Preliminary design work has been completed and an agreement between the owner and the City for a no-cost easement is currently being negotiated.

**Highway 237 Bikeway (H237 01)  
Coyote Creek to Lafayette Street (5.0 miles)**

PRNS is working with DOT staff to finalize provisions related to maintenance and repairs in order to complete the agreement with Caltrans. It is anticipated that the agreement with Caltrans will be finalized by the Fall of 2005.

An agreement between departments is expected to be developed by Summer 2005.

**Highway 87 Bikeway (H87 01 - 03) Willow Street to Santa Teresa Blvd. Exit (3.9 miles)**



PRNS staff is working with the VTA to install lighting from Willow Street to the Tamien Station. PRNS is working with DOT staff to finalize provisions related to maintenance and repairs in order to

complete the agreement with Caltrans. It is anticipated that the agreement with Caltrans will be finalized by the Fall of 2005.

An agreement between departments is expected to be developed by Summer 2005.

**Los Gatos Creek (LGC01 - 02)  
Auzerais Avenue to Guadalupe River Park (0.5 miles)**

The master plan was initiated in May and an initial site walk was completed. Meetings with the Joint Powers Board staff (organization responsible for rail operations along the peninsula) have occurred as staff begins the process of determining how the trail will travel under



the West San Carlos Street bridge and over the railway tracks (active service includes Light Rail, ACE, Caltrain and Amtrak), and cross the creek as the trail system makes its way downtown.

The master plan's schedule is pending until further research is conducted to better understand the project challenges.

**Los Gatos Creek (LGC03) Lincoln Avenue to Auzerais Avenue (0.7 miles)**



Construction documents are being prepared. Because the schedule for acquiring a portion of railroad right-of-way is unknown, documents permit either use of the existing Lonus Street entrance or an entry

from Coe Avenue using the former railway and trestle structure. Should construction commence before the acquisition of the railroad project, development of this entry point will be prioritized for development at a later date.

Construction documents are to be completed by November 2005.

**Penitencia Creek (PEN12)  
Alum Rock Park to Noble Drive (0.7 miles)**



Staff worked with Department of Transportation staff to develop a conceptual roadway alignment that provides space for a divided trail facility. Funds have been secured for the project and the master plan will commence in July 2005. The project will define a final trail alignment from the park entrance to Dorel Drive. The segment from Dorel Drive to Noble

Drive will be defined as an interim trail because the Army Corp of Engineers is planning flood control work that would likely impact any trail development.

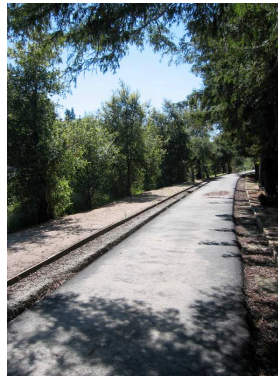
The master plan's schedule is pending until further research is conducted to better understand the project challenges.

**Penitencia Creek (PEN11 - 12)  
Noble Avenue to Piedmont Avenue (0.5 miles)**

Construction began on June 1. The project includes two pedestrian bridges, trail construction and a neighborhood park.

Construction is to be completed by December 2005.

**Saratoga/San Tomas Aquino Crk (SAR06) Bollinger Road to English Drive (1.0 mile)**



Most of the trail, retaining walls and bridge were constructed prior to October 2004. Construction work on the project was on hold from October 15 to June 1 in order to comply with the permits issued by the State Department of Fish & Game. Work resumed on June 1 to complete the trail, bridge enhancements and safety railing.

Construction is to be completed by December 2005.

**Silver Creek - Dobern Bridge (SCL12A) Dobern Avenue to Bambi Lane (395 ft)**

Construction is to commence in the summer of 2005. The project will be developed in two phases. The bridge and a temporary trail connection will be built first, immediately followed by the installation of the final trail with landscaping. The first phase being built by the Water District and the City will complete the second phase.

The bridge and temporary trail will be installed by September 2005. Development of the final trail improvements will follow by several months.

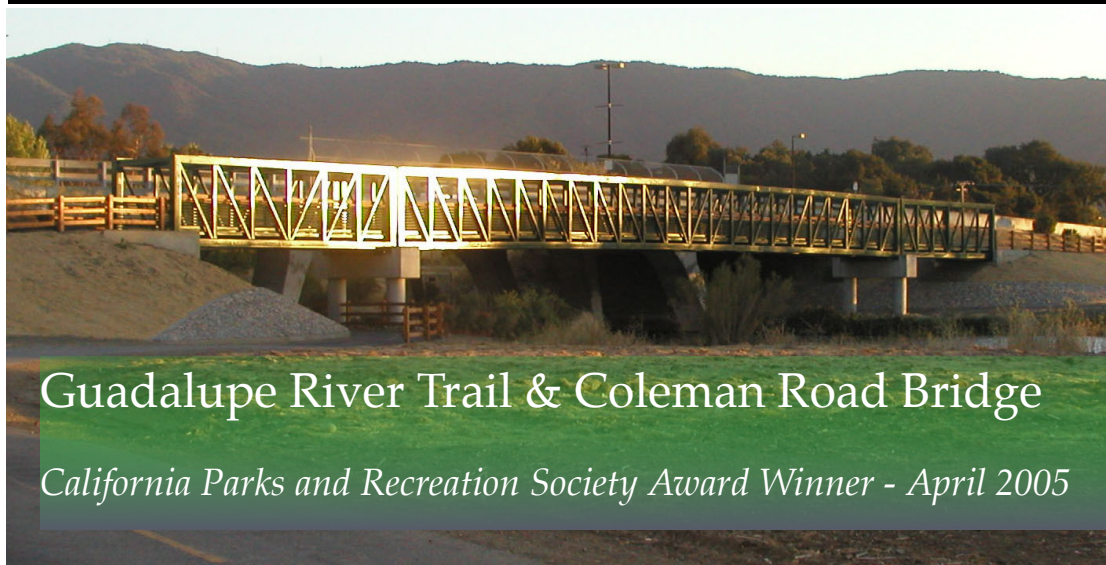
**Lower Silver Creek (LSC01 - 17)  
Thompson Creek to Coyote Creek (6 miles)**

An Open Space Authority grant has been secured. A funding agreement is being negotiated for \$250,000. The plan will define a trail route linking parks, schools and neighborhoods to planned trail systems on the Coyote and Thompson creeks. The trail will be developed mostly along Water District right-of-way, much of which has been recently reconfigured to permit trail development as part of flood control work.

Development of a master plan will commence in the Fall of 2005.

**Thompson Creek Trail (THO 01 - 04) Tully Road to Heartland Way (6.8 miles)**

The master plan was completed in the Spring of 2005. The plan defines a trail system that will be developed over time as development occurs in the Evergreen area. The plan defines an interim trail from Tully Road to Aborn Road. Staff will be working with the Water District in the new fiscal year to negotiate a joint trail agreement to permit public access.



## Guadalupe River Trail & Coleman Road Bridge

*California Parks and Recreation Society Award Winner - April 2005*



### Willow Glen Spur (WG01 - 14) Los Gatos Creek to Coyote Creek (2.9 miles)



Initial environmental testing has been completed for the parcels from Los Gatos Creek to the Guadalupe River. Further testing will be completed in this reach and east to Coyote Creek as part of a federally funded

grant project (EPA Brownfields grant). Comprehensive testing will help define necessary mitigations and permit the land acquisition process to proceed. Staff continues to seek funds for acquisition of all parcels needed for a continuous trail that will link three waterway trails (Los Gatos, Guadalupe and Coyote) and the Highway 87 Bikeway. The owner, Union Pacific Railroad Company, is working with the State of California to define acceptable levels of mitigation as it seeks to sell the property.

A schedule for the acquisition of parcels is pending at this time since the timeline associated with the State of California's assessment is unknown.

## Partners

Development of trails within San Jose can only occur through successful partnerships and the efforts of many - some key partner include:

- Santa Clara Valley Water District (Funding, project delivery)
- Department of Public Works (Project delivery)
- Department of Transportation (Funding, project delivery, on-street bikeway integration)
- City Attorney's Office (Agreement development)
- Redevelopment Agency (Project delivery, funding)
- Department of General Services (Maintenance)
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (Funding)
- Bay Ridge Trail/Coastal Conservancy (Funding)
- State of California (Funding)
- County of Santa Clara (Funding, project delivery)
- Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers (Maintenance)
- PRNS Park Managers (Design, maintenance)
- The many residents, bike groups and trail advocates that encourage and support expansion of the trail system.